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ACTION ARA-14
INFO OCT-01 ISC-00 HA-05 INR-10 L-03 SS-15 SP-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5945
C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0694
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJ: GOU TO SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF ABA VISIT
ALSO FOR ARA/ECA AMB. PEZZULLO
REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 0680 (B) MONTEVIDEO 0652
1. FURTHER TO REFTEL (A), VERY RELIABLE SOURCE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT ARMED FORCES POLITICAL COMMISSION DECIDED AFTERNOON MARCH 1 THAT ABA/BUTLER-REQUE VISIT SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER MARCH 26. AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS WILL REPORTEDLY BE INSTRUCTED TO CONTACT BUTLER TO SEEK DELAY, PRESUMABLY ON GROUNDS THAT GOU CANNOT ACCOMMODATE VISITORS UNTIL AFTER MARCH 20-24 TOURISM WEEK (SECULAR URUGUAY'S SUBSTITUTE FOR HOLY WEEK).
2. COMMENT: WE DO NOT VIEW THIS AS A BACKING AWAY FROM FORTHCOMING APPROVAL OF ABA VISIT REQUEST CONTAINED IN MENDEZ LETTER TO BE WIND TRANSMITTED REFTEL (A). TOURISM WEEK WHICH CULMINATES THREE MONTHS SUMMER VACATION PERIOD WILL GENUINELY PARALYZE OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES IN THIS HOLIDAY-HAPPY COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH ABA VISIT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE MARCH 20 THIS WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE SOME OVERLAP WITH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES VISIT AND GOU MAY FEEL IT CANNOT COPE WITH
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A HUMAN RIGHTS TWIN BILL. ANOTHER FACTOR COULD BE DESIRE TO BUY TIME FOR FURTHER MOVEMENT ON CASES OF FOUR URUGUAYAN LAWYERS WHO ARE FOCUS OF ABA VISIT. AS REPORTED REFTEL (B), SCHURMAN AND FRAGA HAVE BEEN RELEASED, ALBEIT CONDITIONALLY AND PROCESSING OF OTHER TWO CASES COULD BE EXPEDITED. THUS, ALTHOUGH FAR FROM CERTAIN, GOU COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DELAY TO PUT ITS HOUSE IN BETTER ORDER BEFORE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS GUESTS ARRIVE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TIGHT SCHEDULING OF BUTLER AND REQUE WILL PRESENT SERIOUS PROBLEM, BUT WE HOPE SOME ACCOMMODATION ON TIMING CAN BE REACHED BETWEEN ABA AND GOU.
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY L. Mun DATE 4/20/10
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REVIEWED
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
ACCEPT AS RELEASABLE ☐
CLASS. CHANGED ☐
PA OF FOI EXEMPTIONS
DECLASSIFIED 4-30